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SWISS CATHOLICS IN LONDON, 1962

The Annual General Meeting this year was held on Sunday, 6th May, at 8 p.m. in the Westminster School Hall, 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1. After opening prayers, the Chairman, Mr. O. Grob, extended a warm welcome to all present.

The Chairman stated in his report that 1961 can be recorded as a year of steady progress in the activity of the Swiss Catholic Community, shared by the permanent as well as the temporary Swiss residents in the colony.

In appreciation of the outstanding services rendered to us by our former Chairman, Mr. J. J. Boos, since the formation of our Committee in 1941, a petition was made by us to His Eminence, Cardinal William Godfrey, for a papal decoration. We received, in October 1961, from His Eminence the Cardinal the news that His Holiness the Pope had been pleased to appoint Mr. Jean Jacques Boos a Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great in recognition of his services to the Church in the work he has done for Swiss Catholics in this country.

About fifty people, representing many Catholics and Swiss Organisations and Institutions in this country, and personal friends of Mr. J. J. Boos assembled at the Dorchester Hotel on 30th November 1961 to witness the presentation, on behalf of His Holiness the Pope, of the Brief of Appointment and the Insignia as Knight of the Order of St. Gregory the Great, by the Right Reverend

George L. Craven, M.C., V.G., Bishop of Sebastopolis. His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador and Madame Daeniker were unable to attend owing to a previous engagement, but we were very pleased to welcome Monsieur Marcel Heimo, Economic Counsellor at the Embassy, and Madame Heimo, who represented them. It was also a pleasure to welcome as a guest of the Committee, amongst others, the son of Mr. Boos, the Reverend Pater Thomas Boos, O.S.B., Assistant Procurator and Master of Ceremonies at Quarr Abbey, I.O.W.

A warm welcome was also extended at this dinner party to our new part-time Assistant Priest, the Reverend Father J. Stocker, from the Bethlehem Missionary Society in Switzerland.

The Chaplain, the Rev. Father Joseph Scherer, in his report reviewed the last year's work among the Swiss Catholics in London.

He stated that the aged and sick people were given priority but the ever increasing members of young Swiss coming to this country demanded a large share of his time giving them advice and guidance.

He asked all to let him know in good time whenever any of our compatriots are ill in hospital or at home, or are in need of spiritual, charitable or social assistance.

Father Scherer was pleased to say that the Sunday Evening Mass, with the sermon in German and French, shows an increase in attendance.

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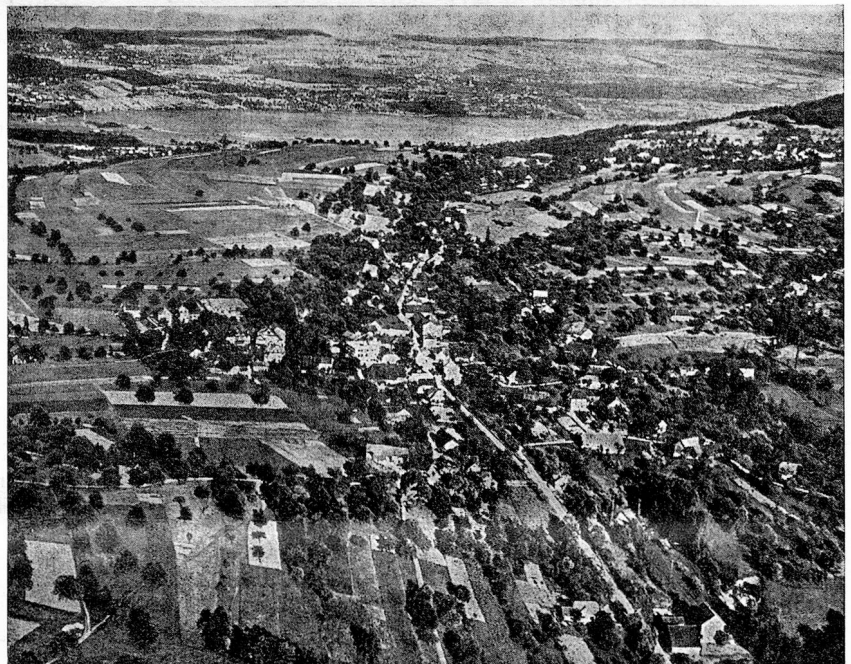
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«Aufnahme von Dürrenäsch mit Blick auf den Hallwilersee. In diesem schönen, typischen Schweizer Dorf, inmitten herrlicher Obst- und Blumenärten, liegen die verschiedenen komfortablen Häuser des «Home». Hier erleben Sie zu jeder Jahreszeit im Kreise der «Home»-Familie Ihre Heimat in gemüthlicher Atmosphäre und ländlicher Romantik.



Aerial view of Dürrenäsch with view of the lake of Hallwil. In this beautiful and typically Swiss village,

in a picturesque setting of orchards and gardens, lie the various and comfortable houses of the «Home». At any time of the year, in the peace and quiet of the country, a friendly, homely welcome awaits you from the happy family of «Home» guests.



During the last year we had the special Services for the Swiss Catholics at St. Ann's — for Easter, for Swiss National Day in August, for Swiss National Day of Prayer in September and for Christmas, each one followed by a social gathering.

Each Sunday, after the Evening Service, the members of the Swiss Catholic Youth Club met in the large dining room of the Catholic School at 48 Great Peter Street, S.W.1, made available to us through the generosity of the Right Rev. Monsignor Canon W. Gordon Wheeler, Administrator of the Westminster Cathedral. These social evenings, when, besides talks, films and colour-slide shows, facilities for dancing are given, are regularly attended by 120-170 young compatriots.

During the summer months the Club organised excursions to Cambridge (130 people), Windsor (120), Canterbury (80), and to the Isle of Wight (150). The following visits were made: four times to Westminster Abbey, twice to the Houses of Parliament in session (once with 100 visitors), and to the Tower of London, and several times to the Port of London. All these excursions and sight-seeing tours were greatly enjoyed by everyone.

The Chaplain said that a room in the West End, or in another central position in London, was badly needed where young Swiss girls could meet in their free time, especially during winter or on rainy days.

After the traditional Christmas Service, a Christmas and New Year tea-party for children was held at 48 Great Peter Street School Hall. In spite of the extremely bad travelling conditions, caused by snow and ice, the service and tea-party were well attended.

This children's party was followed by a dance arranged by the members of our very active and flourishing Youth Club.

Father Scherer also paid tribute to the work done during his illness in April and May 1961 by the Rev. Father Hansjörg Auf der Maur, from the Bethlehem Missionary Society.

The Chaplain expressed his sincere thanks to the Ecclesiastical Authorities of the Dioceses of Westminster, Southwark and Brentwood, in particular to His Eminence Cardinal William Godfrey, and to Their Excellencies, the

Swiss Bishops, especially their Dean, Monsignor Angelo Jelmini and the "Sekretariat fuer Ausland-Seelsorge" for their great support.

He also thanked His Excellency the Swiss Ambassador, Madame Daeniker and the Members of the Embassy for their constant and valuable help, and expressed his appreciation to our Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. O. Grob, and to all who have assisted him in his work during the past year.

The Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Frey, gave his report for 1961. Thanks to the generosity of all our friends, the Grand Christmas Draw, 1961, produced an income of £262.8s.2d. With this amount, the contributions from 77 donors, Income Tax recovered on Covenants, and the Church Collections, we had a total income of £678.13s.8d. with which we just managed to meet our expenses of £655.16s.3d. leaving a surplus for the year of £22.17s.5d.

It was again decided to hold a Christmas Draw in 1962, instead of a Bazaar.

The Chairman and Chaplain were duly thanked for their reports and the Treasurer's Statement of Accounts per 31st December 1961 was unanimously passed by the meeting with thanks to the Hon. Treasurer.

The Committee for 1961 offered themselves for re-election, there being no resignations. Mr. Robert Schweizer, K.C.S.S., was proposed as an additional member and the composition of the Committee, then duly elected for 1962, is as follows:—

Chaplain: The Reverend Joseph Scherer; Chairman: Mr. O. Grob; Vice-Chairman: Mr. E. Bonvin; Hon. Treasurer: Mr. E. Frey; Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. P. Siegfried; Members: Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. F. McKenna, Messrs. G. Bartholdi, J. J. Boos, K.S.G., E. R. Cottet, F. De Maria, E. Eha, C. Gallo, R. E. Gut, M. Heimo, P. Jacomelli, E. Kaeufeler, L. W. Krucker, R. Schweizer, K.C.S.S., and R. Voegtli.

The Ladies' Committee consists of Mrs. E. Bonvin (Chairman), Miss C. Affentranger, Miss L. Bonetti, Mrs. C. T. O. Clarke, Mrs. G. Gallo, Mrs. O. Grob, Mrs. M. Heimo, Mrs. E. Kaeufeler, and Mrs. F. McKenna.

After the meeting, the Youth Club held a social gathering.

E.S.

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